

**Serial No. 09/896,853**

**Art Unit: 1751**

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to delete the term "typical" which occurred in claim 11 to which the Examiner objected. In addition, claim 11 has been amended to indicate that an anionic co-surfactant is included in the detergent composition and the term "whereby" has been substituted for the term wherein in relation to the cleaning performance improvement.

Claim 15 has been amended to delete the term "anionic surfactants" since the anionic surfactants have been included in the composition by amendment to claim 11.

Claim 16 has been amended to indicate that the 1 to 40% relates to the combined weight of the nonionic and anionic co-surfactants in the composition. This amendment is consistent with claim 22 which indicates that the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from 1 to 40% by weight.

Claim 18 has been amended to delete the total number of carbon atoms in substituents R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>. It is clear since R<sup>1</sup> must contain at least ten carbon atoms, the sum of the carbon atoms in R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> cannot be at least six. The sum of the carbon atoms must be at least 12.

Claim 21 has been amended to delete anionic surfactants from the list of co-surfactants since anionic surfactants are included in the composition of claim 11.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the amendments to the claims are fully supported in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been entered by way of amendment to the claims.

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The amendment to claim 11 has the method for improving the cleaning performance of an aqueous liquid laundry detergent in the preamble but also indicates by the term "whereby" that the cleaning performance is improved by adding to the detergent composition the hydroxy mixed ether. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the claim in light of the fact that the improvement in the cleaning performance not only appears in the preamble but also in the whereby clause which appears at the middle of the claim.

The term "typical" has been deleted from claim 11 and applicants deem the amendment to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claims 11-18 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Pruehs et al. (U.S. 4,898,621) which is directed to rinse aids. Applicants respectfully submit that Pruehs et al. is not pertinent and neither teaches nor suggests the present invention. Claim 11 has been amended to indicate that the liquid laundry detergent composition comprises water and anionic co-surfactants, auxiliaries and additives. Applicants submit that Pruehs et al. teaches at column 1, lines 17-19 that rinse aids are not detergents and in addition at lines 25-29 teaches that conventional anionic wetting agents such as relatively high molecular weight alkyl sulfates or alkyl or alkylaryl sulfonates are not suitable for use in the Pruehs et al. composition. Since anionic surfactants are a compulsory portion of the detergent formulation of the invention which cleaning performance is improved by the addition of the hydroxy mixed ether, applicants respectfully submit that a rejection under 35 USC 102(b) over Pruehs et al. is untenable and

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respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner cites Pruehs et al. Example XIV as disclosing a detergent composition made by adding 15% of the compound of Example 3 hydroxy mixed ether with 10% by weight of a fatty alcohol with 5 mols of ethylene oxide and 4 mols of propylene oxide, 4% by weight of sodium cumene sulfonate, 10% by weight of citric acid, and 5% by weight of Sokalan DCS® and 56% by weight of water. Applicants respectfully submit that the composition of Example XIV neither teaches nor suggests the liquid detergent composition of the present invention.

Firstly, the composition is described as a "rinse aid" containing a hydroxy mixed ether as a wetting agent. Applicants submit that composition of Example XIV does not contain an anionic surfactant. The example describes the material as set out at column 1. Pruehs et al. teaches that rinse aids are not detergents (and do not contain anionic wetting agents). The carboxylic acids in the composition of Example XIV are complexing agents as described at column 5, lines 51-64. The sodium cumene sulfonate which is present in Example XIV is not an anionic surfactant but is classified as a solubilizer (column 5, lines 37-40). The materials are well known in the detergent art and are not known to substantially reduce the surface tension of water. Therefore, Applicants submit that sodium cumene sulfonate is not known as an anionic surfactant within the art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is untenable and request that the rejection over Pruehs et al. be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 11-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Schmid et al.

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(DE 19738866) and will be discussed in relation to its equivalent US Application Publication No. 2005/0130865. Applicants respectfully submit that Schmid et al. neither teaches nor suggests the present invention. Schmid et al. disclose a composition containing hydroxy mixed ethers and low-foaming nonionic surfactants. The composition can contain solubilizers and carboxylic acid complexing agents. However, neither the solubilizers nor the carboxylic acid complexing agents are anionic surfactants within the use and practice of the art. There is no teaching nor suggestion to include an anionic surfactant (high foaming material) in the Schmid et al. composition.

The Schmid et al. composition can also contain well known solubilizers. These materials are not surfactants. The Schmid et al. specification at page 3, middle of the paragraph 0050 in the left hand column clearly teaches that the alkyl benzene sulfonic acids are solubilizers and not anionic surfactants.

It is clear from the specification that Schmid et al. is directed to low foaming compositions and would not include a high foaming anionic surfactant in the mixture. None of the examples contain an anionic surfactant.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Pruehs et al. or Schmid et al. disclose detergent compositions with enhanced performance. Both references are directed to rinse aids which do not contain the anionic surfactants of the detergent composition of the present invention.

Applicants submit that Pruehs et al. and Schmid et al. would neither teach nor suggest to introduce the hydroxy mixed ether into a detergent composition containing an

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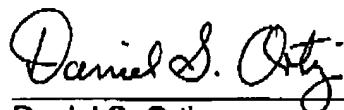
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anionic surfactant to improve its detergent performance. Therefore the rejections under 35 USC 102(b) are untenable and request that they be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the amendments entered in the claims and the above discussion, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection over Schmid et al. under 35 USC 102(b).

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Pruehs et al. nor Schmid et al. teach or suggest a liquid laundry detergent which contains anionic surfactants. The anionic carboxylic acids and alkyl benzene sulfonates disclosed in Pruehs et al. and Schmid et al. are materials known as complexing agents and solubilizers. Neither of these materials are known to be surfactants. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of the claims is untenable and respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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